

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 11, 21 and 28 being independent. Independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 28 have been amended along with claims 5 and 9. Claims 2, 12, 22 and 29 have been canceled. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment. Favorable reconsideration of the action mailed on January 29, 2007 is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following comments of the Applicants, which are preceded by related comments of the Examiner in small bold type:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 14, 21, 23, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(c) as being anticipated by Gutman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,137,018 B2) (hereinafter referred to as Gutman).

Independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 28 have been amended to respectively include subject matter of claims 2, 12, 22 and 29. As such, the Applicants respectfully assert that amended claims 1, 11, 21 and 28 along with claims 3, 4, 13, 14, 23 and 30 are not anticipated by Gutman.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 5-10, 12, 15-20, 22, 24-27 and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's comments that claims 2, 5-10, 12, 15-20, 22, 24-27 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Based upon the Examiner's suggestion, independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 28 have been amended to respectively include subject matter of claims 2, 12, 22 and 29. As such, the Applicants assert that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or

other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney can be reached at the address shown below. All telephone calls should be directed to the undersigned at 617-368-2191.

No fee is believed due. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 10559-842001.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey J. Barclay
Reg. No. 48,950

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Fish & Richardson P.C.
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906